[30th July 1953

Irrigation in Srikakulam district.

* 1246 *Q.*—SRI P. PUNDARIKAKSHACHARYULU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Srikakulam District Food Production Committee by a unanimous resolution on 3rd March 1953 requested the Government for immediate sanction of sufficient funds and staff to maintain normal irrigation and poduction in Srikakulam district; and

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) When the recommendation of the District Food Production Committee referred to in clause (*a*) was received, the policy of the Government was, not to take up any new irrigation schemes under the Intensive Cultivation Campaign. It was, therefore, considered that no action was called for in the matter. A list [a] of schemes of repairs and improvements to irrigation sources that were taken up in Srikakulam district prior to the advent of the policy referred to above is placed on the table of the House. Irrigation works are, however, being undertaken now under the Special Minor Irrigation Programme for the implementation of which the Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 25 lakhs to be spent before 30th June 1953."

SRI P. PUNDARIKAKSHACHARYULU:—" After the transfer of the major irrigation schemes from the Grow More Food Department to the regular Public Works Department, it is often stated by the Executive Engineer, Srikakulam, that there is no staff to look after irrigation sources. This has been brought to the notice of the Government many a time here and also by the ryots. May I know what action has been taken by the Government?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—" The hon. Member may put a clear question. I do not understand him."

Quality of rice sent from Udamalpet to Malabar.

* 1247 *Q.*—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the two wagons (475 bags) of red raw rice received by the Mowancherry Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society in North Malabar on 21st May 1953, from Udamalpet (Coimbatore district), were found to be unfit for human consumption; and

(*b*) if so, whether any enquiries were made with the Assistant Entomologist of Coimbatore and the Collector of Malabar regarding the matter?

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 1917–1920 infra.

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" (*a*) A consignment of 475 bags of raw rice received by the Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society, Mowancherry, from Udamalpet in Coimbatore district was of red variety. But the Assistant Entomologist who was consulted about the condition of the stock has not condemned it as being unfit for human consumption. He has advised that the stock should be cleaned before issuing it to the consumers.

" (*b*) Enquiries are being made in the matter."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR:—" Is it a fact that Rs. 49,395-6-1 was the loss the Mowancherry Producer-*cum*-Consumer Society had to incur due to the forcible allotment of the stock to them when they did not want it? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" I do not have the figure here. With regard to the loss sustained by the concerned society, I do not think that any representation has been received regarding the extent of the loss."

SRI C. KANDASWAMI:—" How is it, Sir, that rice was sent from Udamalpet, which is a famine area? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" In Malabar, it was a scarcity period then and sufficient rice was not available for distribution there. Rice was rushed from wherever possible, even where there was only a small surplus, as immediate help was needed in Malabar."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR:—" Is it not a fact that the rice allotted to this society and other societies in Malabar is the same which was sent to Coimbatore district a few months earlier from Malabar and is it not hard to thrust this useless stuff on the people of Malabar who have to depend entirely on the ration shops since the price of rice in the open market is beyond their reach? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" People are misled by the colour of the rice. It is of red variety and so it is said it is rotten and useless for human consumption. On the other hand we are advised that it has got good nutritive value and is good rice. Because it is red, people should not think it is useless and unfit for human consumption."

SRI C. H. KANARAN:—" This red rice was taken away from Malabar to other places in Tamilnad and after so many months, it is taken back to Malabar and the societies are asked to take it. Is it because that the people in other parts refuse to take it that it is sent back to be thrust on the people of Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" I am not quite sure whether this consignment from Tamilnad was the consignment moved originally from Malabar to Tamilnad."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR:—" The Hon. Minister was saying that due to the red colour of the rice people say it is

bad but that it should not be treated as bad. But as one who has tasted and experienced the kanji prepared out of this rice, may I inform the Hon. the Minister that it becomes a gummy substance when it is put in water and boiled?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"I do not have the advantage of having boiled the rice and used it. I shall try to have some experience of it. But this variety is popular in Andhra and I thought Malabar people, especially those following Mr. Nambiar's ideals, would like the red variety, especially from Andhra." (Laughter.)

SRI KUNHI MOHAMAD SHAFEE:—"Is it not a fact that apart from the colour of the rice it had deteriorated in quality due to the stock lying idle for long months in Malabar and then being taken to Coimbatore and other places and sent back to Malabar?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"I agree that there was a certain amount of deterioration because of long storage. That is the inevitable result of controls and centralization, procurement and distribution. We would like to avoid it and that is why I stated that it had to be cleaned before issue for consumption by the public."

9 a.m. SRI S. N. SOMAYAJULU:—"பல்லாயிரக்கணக்கான டன் அரிசி மலபாரில் சேமித்து வைக்கப்பட்டிருப்பதினால் தான் அவைகள் ரொம்பவும் கெட்டுப் போய் பிறகு பல்வேறு ஜில்லாக்களுக்கு அனுப்பப்படுகிறது. இப்படி எதற்காக மலபாரில் பல்லாயிரக்கணக்கான டன் அரிசியை சேமித்து வைக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"மலபார் உணவு பற்றாக் குறை பிரதேசமானகையால் அனேகமாக மலபாரில் தான் லக்ஷக்கணக் கான டன்கள் அரிசி வினியோகம் செய்ய வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஆகவே அரிசி நிறைய அங்கே ஸ்டாக் செய்யவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் அங்கு ஸ்டாக் செய்வதற்கு தக்க வசதியாக கோடௌன்கள் இல்லாத தால் தான் அவைகள் கெட்டுப் போய்விடுகின்றன."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, in view of the statement made by the Hon. Minister about the red rice being dangerous (interruption by the Hon. Finance Minister), would the Government please stop exporting the red rice from Andhra area?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"Sir, we would consider the very useful suggestion when the Andhra State is formed and consult the Andhra Government."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR:—"Sir, the Hon. Minister was saying that people like me will like the red rice. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to take it from me that the red rice, that is, the boiled rice without removing the bran was liked by Gandhiji as being the best for health?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"Sir, I am glad to take note of the information furnished by the hon. Member."